THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b) A statement containing the details of the demands made by the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society in a memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister on 17-3-1986 and the reaction of the Government thereon is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement

Sl. No.	Demands made by IENS	Reaction of the Government thereto
1	2	3
1	The newspaper industry should be accepted as service industry having a definite social objective and commercial considerations like return on capital or profits should not be given predominance;	The Second Press Commission went into various aspects of the press as an industry and has made certain recommendations which have been considered by the Government but no decision has been taken yet.
2	Ways and means should be adopted to reduce the cost of production of indigennous newsprint manufactureres;	The recent hike in the price of the indigennous newsprint produced by NEPA Mills, Hindustan Newsprint Ltd., Mysore Paper Mills and Tamilnadu Newsprint and Paper Mills had to be effected after a detailed study by the Ministry of Industry. It had not been possible to meet the losses of the Mills and to convert Government loans granted to these mills into equity. The major contributory factors in the prices of the indigenous newsprint are forest royalty rates, power tariff, taxes on captive power generations etc. These fall within the domain of the state government concerned. The Centre can, at best appeal to them to consider reduction therein. This has been normally done.
3	As a short term policy, Government should grant morotorium on interest payment and loan repayments due to Central Government from newsprint units during the gestation period.	
4	Larger quantity of newsprint should be imported especially when the international prices are low.	Consistent with the country's policy to attain self-reliance, the quantum of the newsprint to be imported is worked out after assessing the availability of indigenous newsprint.
5	Customs duty on imported newsprint should be abolished.	Customs duty on imported newsprint has recently been reduced to Rs. 550/- PMT after a detailed study by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP). There is no proposal, at present to alter the rates of the customs duty on newsprint.
6	Customs duty on imported items of daily use like presensitized negative off-set plates, RC paper Graphic art films etc. should be reduced.	The customs duty on photo polymer (relief image) plate, polymer plate, processing equipment, automatic film for use in printing industry and colour scanner has already been reduced to 35% *ad valorem* as part of budget 1986-87. It has, however, not been possible to accept the suggestion for reduction of customs duty on other items like graphic art films RC paper, printing ink, art paper etc.